

FCC Comment

Concerning Proceeding 17-108: Removing the classification of ISPs as Title II Common Carriers.

I am a young software engineer with aspirations to start my own business someday, and I fear that removing the Title II classifications of ISPs will be very harmful to me personally, to my future business, and to society at large.

The internet has become an essential tool for all citizens in their daily lives for work, reaching health services, socializing, and participating in politics; it is critical to participation in our modern society. At the same time, we have poor internet infrastructure, in terms of both access and performance, when compared with other developed countries. This is largely due to the fact that there are only 0, 1, or 2 options for any consumer across the country when it comes to broadband internet service. Because of this Monopoly/Duopoly of internet access, ISPs have an outweighed ability to effect how we as citizens participate in the world. Title II helps prevent the most harmful actions these companies could take. Under title II, the ISPs are not allowed to decide what content to prioritize, which prevents them from extorting companies by making them pay more to access customers. If Comcast as an example, is able to charge extra to video providers in order to deliver their content at the speeds required to watch good video, then it stifles innovation, by pricing out smaller, newer companies from being able to pay this toll. In fact it could further develop monopolies across internet and web businesses, as only those already established and with large amounts of capital will be able to deliver content in a way that satisfies consumer demand. Furthermore, allowing these practices stifles innovation in the area of delivering the internet service itself. It incentivizes the ISPs to look for these opportunities to make money on the traffic they deliver, instead of investing in new cable or fiber and competing on the performance of their networks. Instead ISPs will spend their money competing for 'deals' with content providers, something I view akin to extortion. The argument against this that I have read from Ajit Pai (Head of the FCC) is that ISPs are actually being stifled by the Title II classification - that because they can't make money extorting content providers, that they have less money to build their networks. I would counter this by saying that they could be spending all the money and resources they are spending coming up with these schemes instead on actually improving their networks. Innovation in monetizing the traffic is not as profitable in the longterm, for the company or the public good, as innovating in the networks themselves.

I am a young software engineer myself and hope to start my own software company in the next few years. In today's software industry that inevitably means that I will be providing a service over the internet. If the Title II classifications of ISPs is

revoked, I fear that I will be unable to enter the market as a content provider, due to the cost I may have to pay simply to get my service to my customers at a competitive level of performance.

In summary, revoking Title II status of ISPs will hurt me as a consumer, as a future small business owner, and as a member of society. The move would be anti-competitive, and further reinforce a monopoly in the business of providing internet service. I request that the proposal to revoke Title II status of ISPs be thrown out.

Thank you for considering my comment,

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